Approved For Release 2001/03/05 : CIA-RDP82-00457R004000570 **CLASSIFICATION** COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Gernany REPORT NO. TOPIC Large Soviet Units Brossing the Slbe Siver at UTFUSWBERG 25X1X 25X1A EVALUATION_ CE OBTAINED. DATE OF CONTE 25X1A DATE OBTAINED. 6 December 1949 DATE PREPARED REFERENCES.____ ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE). PAGES___ REMARKS__ RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY SOURCE The following observations in connection with large-scale Elbe River-crosling exercise were made in the MITTENE RG (N 52/4 37) area: 13 October 1949 1. Fourteen armored reconnaissance cars, 2 light A. guns. 25X1B ten motor vehicles with 10 to 12 motor vehicles 25X1B 25X1B trunks and bridge building equipment were entrained in WITTENBERG. 2. 15 October 1949 A train carrying 20 tanks, numerous tracks, several field kitchens and troops passed through WITTENBERG. Railroadmen stated that several trains with tanks had been observed during the preceding days. The tanks allegedly belonged to tank units leaving JITTANBERG. 3. 16 October 1949 A general with a staff of about 15 officers arrived at the albe giver near MUDLANGER (southeast suburb of WITTEN-BERG). 4. 17 October 1949 a. Twelve trucks carrying pontoons moved through MUSHL-25X1B ANGER. About 25 trucks with 25X1B went from the woods near DISTRICHSDORF (N 52/3 47) to WITTERBERG. The trucks were followed by 30 motorcycles and 5 armored reconnaissance cars and, at about 3 p.m. by 9 tanks. CONFIDENTIAL YET/CONTRUL/US OFFICIALS ONLY CLASSIFICATION This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 18 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the RDP82-00457R00400057000287 Approved Fo

By: OZ7

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5. a. About 30 trucks, having and loaded with pontoons, bridge building equipment and one motor boat, passed through MUSHI-ARGER en route from WITTENBERG to DILTRIBISDORF. Local residents reported a tent camp in the woods near DISTRIBEDORF.

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20 Uctober 1949

6. a. Heavy truck traffic was observed between WITTENBURG-ZOBRNIGALL (N 52/E 47) and ZAHNA (N 52/E 48).

b. A large-scale river-crossing exercise, illuminated by searchlights, was held at the albe giver near MUEHL-ANGER in the evening and night of the same day. A pontoon bridge was thrown almost parallel to the high tension line crossing the albe giver near MUEHLANGER. Not of the required bridge building material had been shipped to this place by truck during the preceding days. With the bridge completed, an estimated two hundred tanks, five hundred trucks, most being occupied by young troops: two hundred motorcycles and several passenger cars crossed the bridge at rather high speed. Several trucks houled AT guns. About two thirds of the tanks were of medium size, the rest of large size.

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Twelve tanks protected the bridge on the opposite river bank brid

7. 21 October 1949

Local residents reported that motor boats towed away the pontoon bridge.

21 October 1949

3. Lost of the vehicles which crossed the bridge returned across the Elbe River bridge near FRATAU (E 52/E 37) in the afternoon and were entrained in MITTERDERG.
On the same day heavy artillery fire was heard in MUCHL-ANGER.

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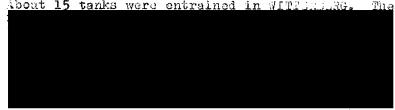
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9. About 15 tanks were entrained in WITI.

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Field Comment:

- The report confirms and supplements previous information by another source (F) *. Movements from the JUSTERBOG-TERDER-MARKINDORF area towards the Elbe River on 6 and 10 October 1949 were interpreted as an assembly of troops who were to participate in the Elbe River-crossing exercise southeast of WITTENBLAG on 21 Uctober 1949. **
- According to available information, the following units participated in the exercise:

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Engineer unit of the Group of Occupation Forces Germany (Hig unit from POTGDAM with motor vehicles of the component units of the 6th and 7th Gds Tank Divs (Cadre) and Mq units of the Third Gds Mecz Army (Cadre).

c. The information that the troops engaged in the river-crossing exercise were indicately afterwards entrained in #ITELLBURG indicates that the troops joined the final maneuvers of the Third Gds Mecz Army (Cadre) in the JUTUALOG-LUCKUM MALDE area during the second half of October 1949. The tank units entrained in WITTENSERG on 13 and 15 October 1949 presumably proceeded to the mentioned maneuver area.

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